

South Meck teacher brings famous maritime disaster to life...

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The Student Body Globetrotters
TITANIC SINKS, 1500 DIE
Caribbean Pleasure Ship Out of Fate—Sinks for How
York—Survivors Empty Wreckage and Children.

Are you putting your life in danger?

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Looking for something out of the ordinary?
The Renaissance Festival offers a unique experience...

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THE SABRES' BLADE

November 12, 1998 South Mecklenburg High School 8900 Park Road Charlotte, North Carolina, 28210 Volume XXVI

Sabres celebrate during Homecoming week

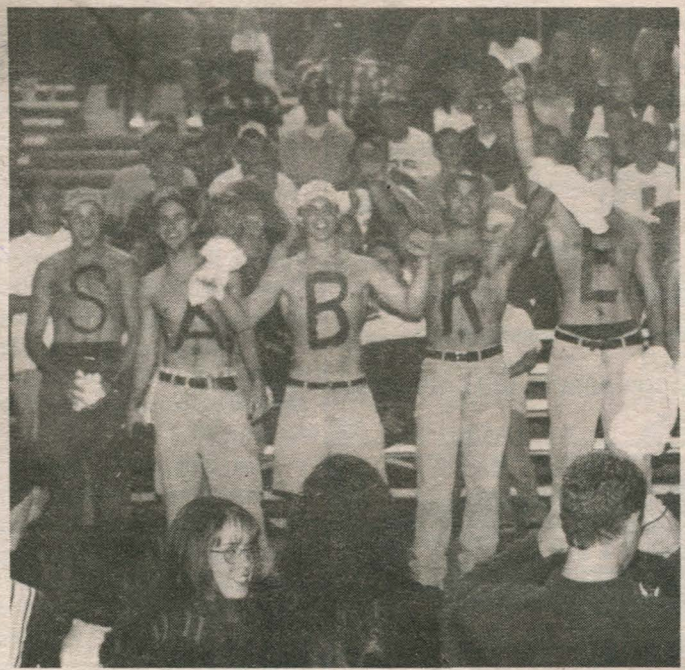


Friday afternoon of Homecoming week, the Student Council hosted an entertaining pep rally focusing on the "Decades" theme. Later in the evening, students participated in the annual Homecoming parade before the football game. To cap off the evening, Rhonda Gray was crowned Homecoming Queen during the half-time of the game against Butler.

Left: 1998 South Meck Homecoming Queen Rhonda Gray

Below left: The cheerleading squad led the crowd at the pep rally Friday afternoon

Below: Students display their Sabre pride at the football game against Butler Friday evening.



Ballenger, Buchert selected as Park Scholarship nominees

By Nathan Morabito
Sports Co-Editor

Michael Ballenger and Andrew Buchert were selected to represent South Meck in the N.C. State Park Scholarship competition. Mike and Andrew were chosen as finalists from among seventeen applicants at the school.

The Park Scholarship is a full scholarship to North Carolina State University, covering tuition and fees, room and board, textbooks, academic supplies including a computer, and living expenses. Scholarship recipients are selected based on exemplary character, strong motivation, intellectual promise, and personal integrity.

Along with these criteria is the expectation that the Park Scholarship recipients will one day make important contributions that will better society. In addition, candidates must not only have demonstrated high achievement and exceptional leadership in their scholastic work and extracurricular activities, but they must also possess unusual aptitudes and/or uncommon talents.

The Park Scholarship was established at N.C. State in 1996 with a grant from the Park Foundation of Ithaca, New York to fund an inaugural class of 25 scholars. Approximately 60 scholars will be chosen from a pool of applicants nationwide this year.

Michael and Andrew will submit their polished applications to the University by mid-November, and will be notified of their status by late December.

School system nullifies exam exemption policy

By Andrew Buchert
Editor

In early October Superintendent Dr. Eric Smith and the School Board made the decision to terminate the exam exemption policy of Charlotte-Mecklenburg high schools in an effort to better prepare students for state, as well as college, testing programs. The high school principals had been debating the issue for over two years, but were unable to reach a consensus.

The development of the state Board of Education ABC testing program has presented the need for periodic cumulative assessment of students in order to raise their scores on the End-

of-Course tests. Last year, South Meck Principal Dr. Jim Knox required that cumulative end-of-quarter tests be given in classes with an EOC, but still allowed for exam exemptions in those classes. "One concern is how our testing program in this district will support the state testing program," said Knox.

A second concern is that many students may enter colleges and universities without having ever had any experience with midterm and final exams. Often college professors only give one or two tests per semester, and students' grades in those courses are based solely on their performance on those exams. "We are not trying to

penalize kids," said Knox, "but we are trying to give them more opportunities to learn how to be successful at test-taking."

The former system-wide exam exemption policy was based on both grades and attendance records. Any students with unexcused absences were automatically required to take the exam, regardless of their grade or number of absences. But at the time that this policy was instituted, the state ABC program had not yet been established and the primary focus was student attendance, rather than testing.

School officials do not believe that the nullification of the exam exemption policy will

have a negative effect on school attendance, but they plan to compare the absentee rate at the end of this school year to the average of the past few years to determine if and how attendance has been impacted by the policy change. "For the students who have higher goals and expectations set for themselves, I don't think it's going to affect them very much," said Knox.

"Yes, I understand the moaning and the groaning that comes with a change, but the change is not to hurt," said Knox. "The change is to positively support students and put them in a better position to be successful."

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Students enrolled in AP courses should not be required to take the AP Exam

Just because a person completes a year in an AP class, it does not mean that he is necessarily ready to take the AP Exam. There are many factors that contribute to a student's readiness.

By Jennifer Samuels
Staff Reporter

AP tests. For most students these annual tests are the culmination of a long, hard year spent in an AP class. The purpose of taking an AP class, after all, is not only to receive extra quality points, but also to prepare for these tests that can earn college credit. However, what if a student does not want to take the AP test? Should students be forced to do so?

In past years students did not have to take the AP test if they did not want to. This year, though, the rule has changed, stating that all students enrolled in AP courses are required to take the exam for that class. School officials feel that if a student spends a year in a class preparing for a test, then he should have to take it. They do not want students taking advanced placement merely for the two extra quality points it offers. This judgment is not fair. It should be up to the students, not the school officials, to decide whether they take the test or not.

Just because a person completes a year in an AP class does not automatically make him ready to take an AP test. There are many factors that contribute to a student's readiness. First of all, there will always be people in AP classes who receive failing grades. In most instances, this is an indication that the student will not do well on the AP exam. To insist that they take a test that they will most likely fail is not only unfair, but somewhat humiliating. It is not right to force students into situations that they do not feel ready to face. On the other hand, there are many people who perform adequately, even exceptionally, in AP classes but still do not feel that they would do well on the test. The decision should be theirs, not the school's.

Advanced Placement classes are offered in all of the core subjects, and even in some electives. However, most colleges will only accept one AP test score for each subject (one math credit, one English, one social studies, and so on). Say, for example, a student takes an AP

US History exam and scores a five, the highest score possible. They may choose to take an AP social studies their senior year as well, but what is the point in their taking the test? They cannot score any higher; they have already earned a year's worth of credit. By forcing students to take the test they are taking away testing space and spending unnecessary money, in addition to the added stress that a test like this brings. In a subject like English, students usually do better on the AP test after taking two years of AP English instead of just one. Students should have the option of waiting.

Then there is the issue of money. Each AP test is partially paid for by the school system. The student's total cost comes to about thirty dollars per test. Take into consideration that there are some students who are taking multiple AP tests, and this adds up to a lot of money! It is a waste of money for a student to take an AP test in a subject where it is not necessary. It should be up to the student, not

to the discretion of the school, as to whether he or she is ready to take an AP test and pay for it.

A teacher is judged based on how well his or her students perform. It happens on state ABC tests, such as the tenth grade Writing Test, and on the other various End-of-Course tests that count for the ABCs. AP tests are no different. How a teacher's students do on an AP exam is perceived as a reflection on his or her teaching. For example, if the whole class failed, school officials would suspect that something was wrong with the teacher. By forcing students who feel unprepared to take an AP exam just for the sake of taking it, the teacher is being set up. Failure will look bad on the teacher's part.

The whole point of high school is to prepare students for adulthood. A large part of this is decision-making. People will not always make good decisions, but they are theirs to make. The decision to take an AP test should be the student's, not school officials'.

Quick Take on Opinions

So many students, so few classrooms

Rain, sleet, snow. These are the hardships disgruntled postal workers have vowed to fight against in order to perform their job.

But should students have to endure the same conditions? It seems that in almost every Charlotte-Mecklenburg high school, students will have to make the daily trek from school building to trailer, fighting the bitter cold of the winter months as well as the sweltering southern heat in the spring and early summer.

Is it just me or are there too many students? How are we supposed to learn effectively if the overwhelming number of people in our classes constantly distracts us? As well, for those students who are in higher level classes such as AG and AP, the teacher's attention is drawn from the needs of the students to controlling a class that large. So, not only does the teacher have more work, but the student loses something as well.

Laura Stinson

The Butler Echo

David W. Butler High School
Matthews, NC

AP classes offer opportunities for all

In my first three weeks of school I have learned that anyone can handle AP courses if he or she is willing to apply his or herself.

It has nothing to do with AP courses being a "white thing." I, being an African-American female, find the atmosphere of an AP class very comfortable. The students are focused and do not disrespect one another for having opposing points of view. I am succeeding in this environment, and I believe that anyone else who is willing to work can too.

Lauren Dicks

The Shakerite

Shaker Heights High School
Shaker Heights, Ohio

Non-activism does not mean racist

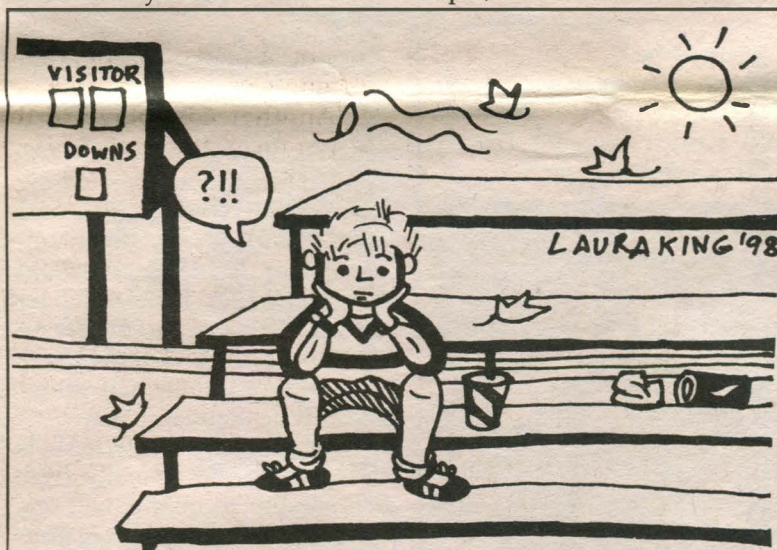
If we force people to interact with each other in the name of racial unity, we are not destroying racism, we are destroying cultural identity. Racism only exists when people are judged based on their skin color, not when they choose to interact with people of similar backgrounds.

Who said that the end of the Civil Rights movement had to have a whole bunch of people of different colors sitting with each other? No, the purpose was a colorblind society that accepted any culture no matter what the skin color.

Paul Schuler

The Banner

University of North Carolina
at Asheville



This lone Sabre supporter's only company is the cold metal bleachers.

Lack of school spirit is much too evident in sports and student activities

What happened to the crowd of students wearing red and black, showing their Sabre pride?

By Cat Traphagan
Staff Reporter

Number 39 leaps across the white line into the end zone for the winning touchdown. Flashes of white, black and red blur together as his teammates rush towards him. The South Mecklenburg football team is ecstatic.

But number 39 does not share the excitement. He is not looking at his overjoyed teammates, but instead is discouraged by the cold, gray bleachers that are supposed to be filled with a crowd of rowdy students roaring with approval. He notices the weary parents that are too tired to stand and cheer. He takes off his helmet and heads for the locker room wondering if it was worth it to win.

Where is the crowd storming the field, overwrought with excitement? What happened to the energized crowd of students wearing red and black to show their Sabre pride? What happened to the fun of showing off your school and being proud of your team whether they win or lose? What has happened to school spirit?

Students only spend four years in high school; four years when they are free of the various pressures of the real world. So why not enjoy it?

Why are we talking about how great other schools are and how much money they have

when we don't even support our own school? We ought to be proud of South. We have so much to boast about. For instance, we have an awesome music department. Our choirs have performed in such prestigious cities as New York and Toronto, and have won numerous awards for excellence. The marching band was invited by Superintendent Dr. Eric Smith to perform for Governor Jim Hunt's visit to Charlotte last month.

Our drama department meets and exceeds the national goals for the year 2000. The drama department also puts on student written, student directed plays through Honors Drama A and B.

And don't forget about our ROTC program. Every year they bring back a number of trophies and awards from various competitions.

Our soccer teams have ranked as high as seventh in the state, and our cross country team just last month won first place in the Southwestern 4A Championship Conference.

If involved students care enough to participate in these activities, we should care enough to support them. It's high time we stop complaining about the accomplishments of other schools and look at our own successes. It's time to stand up and cheer for South's awesome achievements.

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Private school issues strict drinking policy

School holds parents and students accountable for off-campus incidents involving alcohol

By Jennifer Samuels
Staff Reporter

The subject is intoxicating, but the facts are sobering. Statistics show that eight young people die each day in alcohol-related car crashes. Of the forty percent of 16-to-20 year-olds who die from motor vehicle crashes, about half of these (38.9%) were caused by alcohol. Alcohol use is the number one drug problem among teens.

Teenagers are dying every day from alcohol-related incidents, ranging from car crashes to alcohol poisoning. What can be done to help combat the problem? Private schools in Charlotte are trying to solve this issue by setting up drinking policies that are fairly strict. Especially notable is the new drinking policy at Charlotte Country Day School. The policy states that "...if illegal substances are served at a party

in their homes for whatever reason (parents may be out of town, for example)...becomes clear to the school that particular parents allow these kinds of situations to occur, the school reserves the right to separate that family from our school community." In other words, if the school becomes aware of a drinking party hosted by a student at his or her house, whether the parents were home or not, the student and all his or her siblings who attend Country Day will be expelled.

It should be apparent to most people that this policy is very strict, perhaps even harsh. It is a good example of the "no tolerance" attitude that police and other officials in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area have begun to adopt towards underage drinking. But is this new policy too severe? After all, Country Day is the only private school in the area with such a

policy (policies at some other schools are not as strict). Country Day principal Mr. Ted Koskores said, "My sense is that students would much prefer it if the school did not get involved in off-campus situations. Some students are upset, but I also feel that most students understand that the school is thinking of the well-being of its students."

It seems that everyone has an opinion on this subject, whether or not they attend Country Day School. After an article about Country Day's drinking rules appeared in the Living section of the *Charlotte Observer* about a month ago, many letters to the editor began pouring in. A young man from Charlotte Latin School wrote in defending teenagers' right to party. This letter was followed by other letters from people associated with the school, saying that the school did not condone drinking. Nandi Cohen, a

former Providence Day student who now attends Northwest School of the Arts, had this to say in regards to drinking policies at private schools: "I believe that drinking rules in private schools are absolutely ludicrous. This is an issue that is between the students, their peers, and their parents. The school has no right to intervene into the personal lives of the students. By doing so, they are just making the problem worse. We will learn from our own mistakes. Putting a rule on drinking will just make us want to rebel".

After the student body of Country Day got over the initial shock of the policy, many students realized that it is for their own good. "The new policy at first seemed outrageous and invasive into the private lives of students, but after being thoroughly explained, it seems fair and

reasonable," said Jainey Bavishi, a senior at Country Day School.

Strict drinking policies, particularly Country Day's, are not all bad. There was a reason that they were created in the first place: to try to reduce underage drinking and the tragedies that result from it, from arrest to even death. "There have been some problems in the past," said Mr. Koskores, "but we are most deeply concerned with doing all that we can to avert tragedies in the future. At the very least, it will generate discussion. We feel that people will be more prudent and careful. Our hope is that this will result in a decrease in drinking, but we are aware that this is an uphill battle."

Statistics about teenage drinking taken from the National School Board Association and the 1996 National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse

AVID program leads to great success

By Jessica Ambrose and
Jason Nark
Staff Reporters

Advancement Via Individual Determination, also known as AVID, is offered for students interested in pursuing a four year college degree following high school. Though only in its second year at South, the program has proven quite successful.

The AVID program is designed specifically for those students who are highly motivated, yet who are not equipped to manage the Advanced Placement level courses recommended for students planning to attend a four year college. The intention is to aid these students in higher level courses to ensure future success. Students are placed in an advanced curriculum in order to improve chances of acceptance to a college of their choice.

Judging from last year's End Of Course Test scores, the AVID program has achieved its primary goal. Many of the students enrolled in the program scored well on these state administered tests, which can be attributed to the fact that the program stresses a focus on accomplishing goals through individual dedication. Though the scores are indicative of a more effective learning style, overall success of the program will not be evident until freshman participants graduate. "Then we'll be able to look at their grades and their PSAT scores, as well as their SAT scores to judge what progress has been made," said Mrs. Vanessa Hallings, an AVID instructor.

The program provides AVID students with the benefit of a



Walter Boyle/Staff Photographer

Mrs. Naron Desmond, one of South's AVID coordinators, is a strong advocate of the program, which is in its second year at South Meck.

challenging curriculum including supportive feedback from instructors, who act not only as teachers, but also as mentors.

Participants of AVID are encouraged to focus on attainment of personal goals through determination and commitment. Mrs. Naron Desmond, one of the school's AVID coordinators said, "It [AVID] is not for everyone because AVID students must sign a contract that requires them to study two hours every night, take Cornell notes, and be good role models." Students accepted into the program often exhibit those qualities displayed by an advanced student and there is an obvious motivation to succeed, including a definite interest in attending college.

South, a pioneering school in

Mecklenburg County last year, was one of only three high schools offering AVID to freshmen as an elective course. The AVID program at South works very closely with Freshman Focus, each containing similar subject units. Though the two programs are often combined, AVID does have its own original focus and curriculum.

The AVID program has many benefits that are unavailable in the traditional learning methods. "One major advantage for freshman is that they can see each other throughout the day," commented Mrs. Hallings. While middle school provides an opportunity for students to attend uniform classes with the same people, high school operates much differently. The

comfort of seeing familiar faces during the school day appeals to many freshmen and it guarantees easy access to missed assignments. Also beneficial to students involved with this program are the tutorial sessions held each week. Local college students come to South in order to provide assistance in the subject area requested by the AVID student.

Though the ultimate goal for participants in AVID is to attend a four year college following high school, the program can be useful for students facing financial barriers. In the face of increasing tuition costs, most students hoping to attend college compete for scholarships of some sort. The AVID program encourages students to take Advanced Placement courses as juniors and seniors, which no

doubt appeals to scholarship committees.

Another advantage of the program is the early college preparation. While most high school students do not begin to investigate post graduation options until their junior year, AVID students are encouraged as freshmen to tour college campuses and begin exploration into future careers. Students are also able to speak with college advisers to learn about what must be done in order to pursue individual interests.

Instructors in this program are required to attend an intense training session for one week in Newport News, Virginia. The training assists teachers in providing necessary guidance for participating students. "I think teaching in the AVID program is probably the most rewarding thing I have ever done," said Mrs. Hallings. "What I try to do, as an AVID teacher, is say to the students that they need to take responsibility for themselves, and help them come up with a strategy for success."

Clearly, such efforts are rewarding. Student responses assert that AVID has been helpful in their classes and definitely worth the added effort. "So far in the program, I have learned how to study harder, take efficient notes, and how to work individually and in a group," said freshman AVID participant, Jason Miller.

Mrs. Hallings reiterates, "What we [the teachers] are trying to do in AVID is show everyone that everybody can eventually be successful in college preparatory classes. Even if a four year college is not the students' main goal, they can still push themselves to excel."

Teacher Spotlight: Historian Scott Kelly is captivated by the mysteries surrounding the *Titanic*

Kelly lectures on the mysteries that surround the maritime disaster, and has several articles published in historical journals

By Andrew Buchert
Editor

Scott Kelly, an E/L/P teacher in his second year at South, has been fascinated by the infamous sinking of the R.M.S. *Titanic* since his early childhood in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and is now sharing his knowledge with South Meck and the Charlotte area. Kelly has lectured on the maritime disaster to schools, clubs, and civic organizations for the past eleven years, and has published four articles, two of which are on the *Titanic*, in historical journals.

Kelly's interest in the *Titanic* began even before he could read. His grandparents owned a copy of Walter Lord's novel *A Night to Remember*, "which is like the bible of the *Titanic* disaster," Kelly said, "and I was fascinated by the photographs of the ship in there [Lord's novel]."

As he grew older and was able to read, his interest progressed into a hobby. Kelly began collecting anything that he could get his hands on concerning the *Titanic*, amassing many books and hundreds of articles. At the same time he developed a profound respect for the hundreds of people who lost their lives when the "unsinkable" luxury liner struck an iceberg and sank 500 miles off the coast of Newfoundland on April 15, 1912. Of the 2,227 passengers aboard the ship, only 703 survived.

Kelly's career as a lecturer began in 1987, when he was in the ninth grade. "My teacher dared me to get up in front of the class and talk [about the *Titanic*], and I wound up standing up and talking for about 40 minutes," he said. "I didn't think back then that ten years from now I'd still be lecturing and it would have gotten as big as it has," said Kelly.



Walter Boyle/Staff Photographer

Scott Kelly displays his model of the *Titanic* and a newspaper headlining the disaster.

Since that time Kelly has expanded his lecture in both content and audience. After impressing his high school teachers with his talk, he found himself speaking at other schools and to other groups. In 1993, as a secondary education major in college, he published an article entitled "The R.M.S. *Titanic*: Unraveling its Mysteries" in *The Stone House Review*, a Slippery Rock University (Pennsylvania) journal, and the piece had soon circulated throughout the United States, Canada, England, and Australia.

Kelly has toured most of the *Titanic*-related sites throughout Europe. "I had a unique opportunity to do my student teach-

ing in Ireland," he said, "and from there I traveled to Belfast, where the *Titanic* was built." There he saw many of the original plans of the ship and the tools that were used to carve the woodworking on it, as well as the actual rooms in which it was designed.

While in Ireland, Kelly also visited Queenstown, the modern city of Cobh, which was the last place the *Titanic* docked. In England, he toured Southampton, the home port of the ship and the home to most of its crew, where numerous monuments dedicated to the crew members killed on the ship have been built. "One place that I would like to go to is Halifax,

Nova Scotia, where the unclaimed bodies that were brought ashore from the ship were buried," he said.

In Kelly's lectures, which range in length from 45 minutes to an hour, he presents an overview of the *Titanic*, its construction, and the sinking of the ship. In addition, he talks about the famous people who were on board the ship and the fate of some of the crew members. "Probably the best part of my lecture, is the discussion of the mysteries that surround the disaster," he said.

Of the many stories that are connected to the sinking of the ship, Kelly says that the favorite seems to be the supposed

curse on the casket of an Egyptian mummy. The casket had been given to a British museum after everyone who had come into contact with it became mysteriously ill or died. When a photographer died after taking a picture of the casket, the museum decided to ship the casket to America, by way of the *Titanic*.

During his lectures Kelly uses some of his 250 slides, and displays his extensive collection of over 300 framed photographs, prints, newspapers, and other memorabilia of the *Titanic* that he has collected. He prides himself on never having used a script for any of his lectures. "I kind of just put up a slide," said Kelly, "and I can talk as much or as little as I want about each one."

Kelly is a member of the *Titanic* historical society, which serves as a research base for information on the luxury liner. In August of 1994, Kelly was the sole lecturer at a fund raiser for the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum in Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

In addition to his six Economics, Legal, and Political Systems classes at South, Kelly is currently teaching two courses at Queens College in Charlotte: *History of the R.M.S. Titanic* and *Mysteries of Ancient Egypt*. His masters degree is in Western Civilizations with an emphasis on Egyptian history, and he is planning to lead a trip to Egypt this summer for interested South Meck students.

So what does the *Titanic* expert think of James Cameron's blockbuster movie? "We could have done without the love story," said Kelly, smiling. "There were so many interesting people who were on board and so many great stories that they didn't have to make up a fictitious one," he said.



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Access to the Internet provides students with unlimited resources, but it introduces many dangers as well

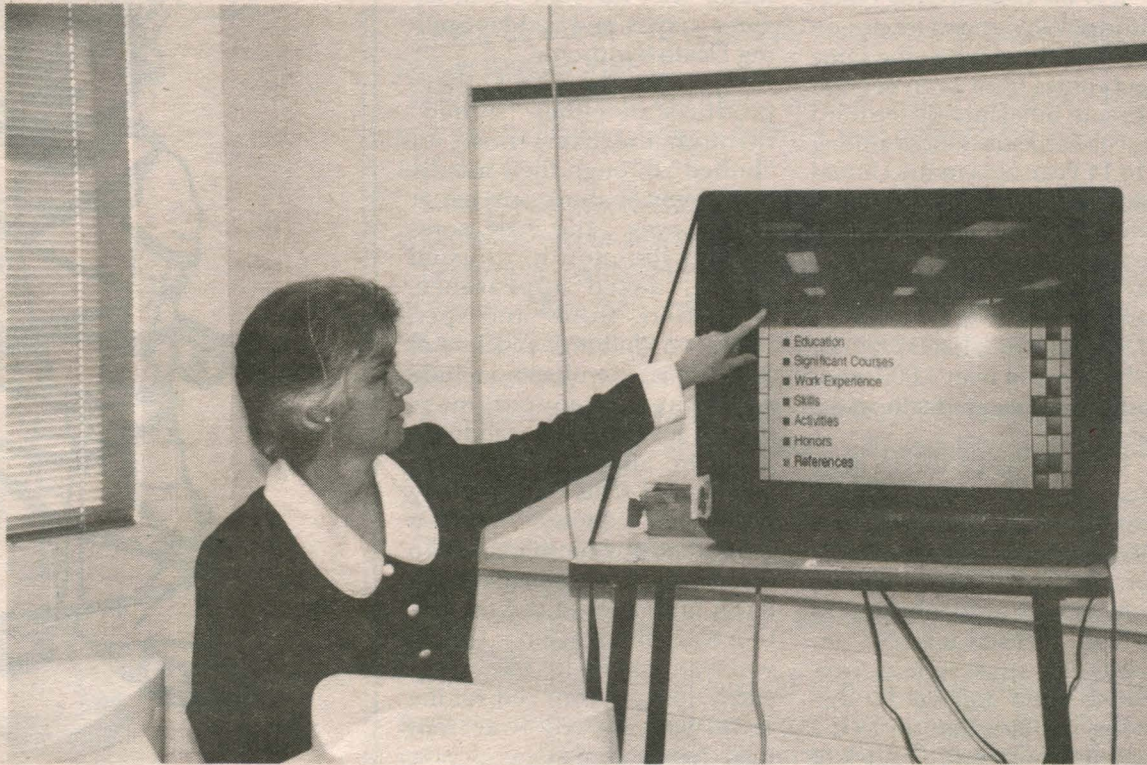
By Jessica Ambrose
Staff Reporter

Available to students at South, the Internet and its policies have become a major concern among students and administrators alike. In order to obtain privileged use of the Internet from South Mecklenburg, students are required to return the "Internet Acceptable Use Agreement" form with their signature, as well as their parent or guardian's signature stating that all regulations are understood and accepted.

The "Internet Acceptable Use Agreement" form was devised several years ago by a select group of teachers, administrators, parents, and students from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area. Terms of this agreement are standard throughout the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System and are not subject to change at the discretion of individual schools. By signing this form, parents are taking full legal and financial responsibility for their child's behavior while online.

Evolution of policy pertaining to Internet use has been quite dramatic. Only two years ago, teachers were required to stand directly behind and carefully observe any student researching online. Now, allowances for student responsibility have been made and only the "Internet Acceptable Use Agreement" form is needed.

"Students need to understand that it [the Internet] is an



Walter Boyle/Staff Photographer

Miriam Carroll teaches both students and faculty the latest computer technology.

educational tool and it is a privilege," said Mrs. Miriam Carroll, the Internet instructor for the computer lab in A-building. Students who abuse use of Internet resources are subject to revocation of all privileges, a one to three day suspension, or possibly exclusion, depending upon the severity of the offense. The intended purpose of providing access to the Internet for students is to expand available research materials for educational purposes only; it is not for recreational use.

According to Mrs. Carroll,

the Internet was originally developed to ensure quick communication between the government and major universities, as research projects progressed at the universities. Eventually businesses became interested in the potential benefits available from utilizing the Internet for marketing. Soon after, schools saw the need to acquire such valuable information in order to broaden accessible resources. The decision to implement online resources as tools to enhance learning in Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools was made

three years ago, and South was one of only approximately twenty-five or thirty schools to receive online services at that time.

Internet resources present many advantages over reference books. While books offer useful information, the Internet is more convenient and is more up to date. Neither television nor radio is as valuable a source, giving only bits of usually biased information, in comparison with the Internet's vast array of data. "The Internet is one of the most exciting opportunities the

students have," said Mrs. Carroll. "They [the students] have the most accurate information at their fingertips."

Access to the Internet may prove beneficial for students as they begin to explore career opportunities. Many employers are now searching for computer literate applicants who are familiar with the fast growing field of technology. Many businesses are now converting to Internet use instead of publishing and printing on paper due to the fact that the Internet is simply more convenient and cost effective. "If we can raise the level of comfort with the students on the computer, I think we have given them a service, not only here, but also when they do go out into the workforce," said Mrs. Carroll. Because of the increasing dependency upon computers, they have become an essential element in functioning in the business community.

Though access to the Internet provides students with unlimited resources, it introduces many dangers as well. The sheer amount of information pertaining to any subject imaginable has some convinced that their privacy has been jeopardized. "There just aren't a lot of safeguards to protect people; that is my major concern," remarked Mrs. Carroll. Most Internet users are not cautious and filters can be surpassed. The filters used at South work well, but are not capable of blocking all inappropriate material.

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Sobering Facts about Alcohol

1. Two out of five people in the United States will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives.
2. Just one drink can affect a person's ability to drive.
3. Drunk driving is the number one killer of teens and young adults.
4. Drinking coffee or taking a cold shower won't lower the amount of alcohol in your bloodstream.
5. Having a designated driver won't protect you from other types of alcohol-related accidents.
6. Over thirty-eight percent of drowning accidents are alcohol-related.
7. Fifty-nine percent of fatal falls are linked to alcohol.
8. A can of beer, a glass of wine and a mixed drink all have about the same amount of alcohol.



9. Alcohol affects every organ in the body.
10. Alcohol can increase your risk of cancer of the mouth, throat, stomach, liver and lungs.
11. One hundred thousand people die every year as a result of alcohol use.
12. There is no safe level of alcohol use for pregnant women.
13. Alcohol is addictive.
14. Nearly fourteen million people in the United States -- one in every thirteen adults -- abuse alcohol or are alcoholic.
15. Alcohol is high in calories, it can make you gain weight.
16. If you have alcoholism in your family, you have a higher risk of becoming an alcoholic.
17. When people mix alcohol and sex, they are less likely to practice safer sex (increasing their risk of getting a sexually transmitted disease like HIV).

(Information courtesy of Amethyst)

The high on the rise

By Nicole Ewing
Business Manager

It is the newest drug craze. Sniffing. Why spend money on alcohol and pot when the same effect comes from a can of paint or Lysol? Inhalants are the third most abused substances among 12 to 14 year-olds in the United States, and hundreds of kids die each year due to inhalant use. What most teens don't realize is that inhaling products like paint, magic markers, white out, lighter fluid, hair spray, air fresheners and over 1,000 other products can cause death on the first try.

Unfortunately, this is drug abuse caused by perfectly legal, common household products that are easily accessible to teenagers. Last year, over a million young people used inhalants to get high. When misused, inhalants can cause serious, irreversible brain damage by dissolving the fatty tissues in the brain. Users are also at risk of

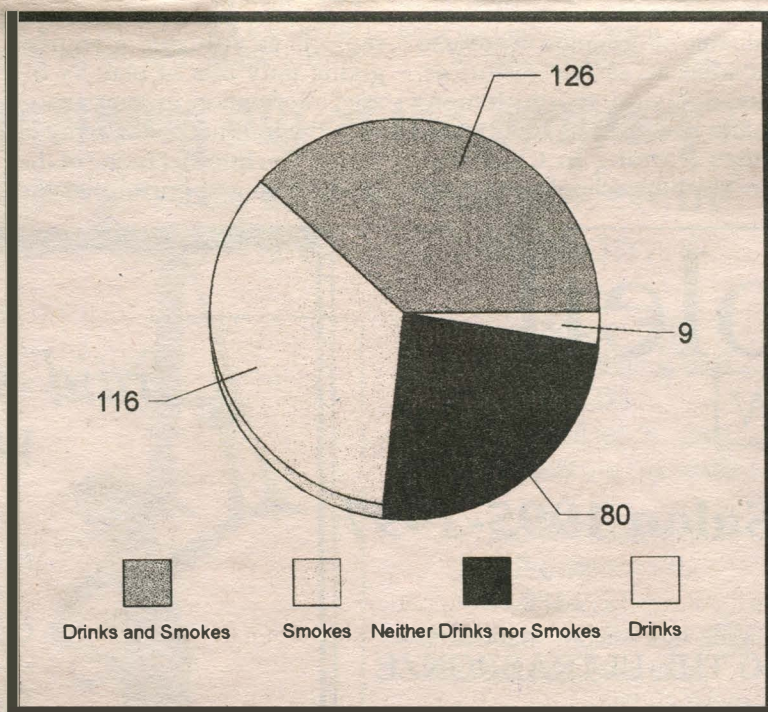
damaging their heart, kidneys, liver, bone marrow and other vital organs. In the worst scenario, they can suffer from seizures, comas, and Sudden Sniffing Death Syndrome.

To get the effect, these products are either "sniffed" through the users nose, or "huffed" through their mouth. Symptoms of abuse are red or runny eyes and nose, sores around the mouth, unusual breath, dazed appearance, correction fluid and pen marks on clothing, and loss of appetite. Side effects include headaches, frequent nose bleeds, loss of senses, abdominal pain, fatigue, weight loss and nausea. This is not a very glamorous lifestyle. If you think that it is harmless to go into the kitchen cabinet and get a can of cleaner to use for getting high, think again. Unless you want to end up like a vegetable, lying in your bed for the rest of your life, stay away from these harmful inhalants.

There are many different types of addictions.



Are you putting yo Serious problems that are



Are you smoking

400,000 Americans die every year

Contrary to popular belief smoking does NOT make one more sophisticated and older, and if anyone thinks so, they are misinformed. Here are the real facts.

EARLY CONSEQUENCES OF SMOKING

- * General decrease in physical fitness.
- * Increased coughing and phlegm.
- * Slower rate of lung growth (by adulthood it may result in reduced level of lung function).
- * Greater susceptibility to respiratory illness and artery disease.
- * Decrease in the ability to taste and smell.
- * Restriction of oxygen flow to the brain- which can lead to stroke.

A license to kill

By Natalie Smith
Staff Reporter

Driving is one of the highlights of the teenage years. Most teenagers look eagerly toward the day when they will receive their driver's license because it gives them a new sense of freedom and independence. However, teenage driving often results in calamity and tragic fatalities. Last year, car crashes killed more teens than AIDS, drugs, homicide, or suicide. Surprisingly, most of these accidents are not alcohol related. Teenage drivers, like it or not, are inexperienced. This, coupled with recklessness and carelessness, yields disaster. As teens, we may not be able to

control the fact that we are inexperienced, but we can control our driving habits on the road.

For thrills, many participate in car surfing. In car surfing, a person rides on the outside of the vehicle while it is in motion. Even if the vehicle is moving at what seems to be a slow speed, a person can slip or be thrown from the outside of the car should the driver have to slam on the brakes. Dinking, jerking the steering wheel of a car in order to make it swerve back and forth across the road, is another common activity. This, too, is hazardous because at any time the driver can lose control of the car and skid off the road, especially if it is raining. Finally, piling enormous numbers of

people into a vehicle made for far fewer people is a practice of which many teens are guilty. Cramming seven people into a back-seat made for three, or five people into a front seat made for two is not wise. There are not enough seat belts for everyone, and should the car be involved in an accident, most, if not all, of the passengers would be thrown from the car. Most teenagers would say that they would never engage in any of the above practices, but add to the list speeding and tailgating and nearly all of us are culprits.

There is no use quoting trite statistics or telling horror stories of accidents involving teenage drivers because the truth is that most teenagers think they

are invincible and that such things will never happen to them. Since this is the case, all teenage drivers need to ask themselves some important questions: How would I feel if the life of my sibling, my best friend, my boyfriend or girlfriend, or the driver/passengers of another car was lost in an accident that was my fault? How would my parents and family feel if I died or were paralyzed in an accident? Hopefully, the answers will bring reckless drivers to change and good drivers to continue their good habits.

Some information taken from Reader's Digest.

But...Addictions are treatable



Let's talk about sex, the birds and the bees. We all know what it is, but do we know the ramifications of "doing it"?

*Nearly 65% of all STD's (sexually transmitted diseases) occur in people younger than 25

*HIV/AIDS is one of the most common, deadly diseases. Right now it is the leading cause of death for men between the ages of 25 and 44.

*Most people who become infected with HIV/AIDS got it through unprotected sex or sharing drug needles.

*Gonorrhea is a bacteria that can cause sterility, arthritis, and heart problems. More than one million cases are reported every year.

*Over 80% of women and 10% of men show no symptoms of gonorrhea, yet they can still infect others.

*Syphilis is a bacteria that, if left untreated, can lead to disfigurement, mental disorder, or death, along with damage of the nervous system, heart, brain, and other vital organs.

*Syphilis is spread through kissing, intercourse, and pregnancy.

*The Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) affects one out of four Americans each year.

*HSV causes sores in the mouth, and on the genitals, and remains in the body for life.

*The best way to protect yourself from STD's is simple: abstain from sex altogether. However, if you are having sex, always use a condom; it has been shown as the best way to prevent the spread of diseases.

SAFE SEX

The Brain-Scrambling Marijuana Quiz

Studies show that smoking five joints a week may expose you to as many cancer-causing chemicals as smoking a pack of cigarettes every day for a week. Take this quiz to find out the real mind-bending, eye-opening facts. Check your answers against those printed below.

1. Marijuana is:
 - a. A drug that changes how the brain works
 - b. A green, brown or gray mix of dried, shredded flowers and leaves of the hemp plant (cannabis sativa)
 - c. Illegal (think fines and jail)
 - d. Sometimes rolled into a cigarette called a joint or smoked in a pipe
 - e. All of the above

2. Which of these can happen within minutes of smoking marijuana:
 - a. Problems remembering what just happened
 - b. Distorted sight, sound, time, and touch
 - c. Loss of coordination
 - d. Increased heart rate and anxiety
 - e. Embarrassing or hurtful mistakes

3. Which of these might be signs that someone has been using marijuana:
 - a. Giggling and silliness for no reason
 - b. Red, bloodshot eyes
 - c. Forgetfulness
 - d. Acting paranoid
 - e. Any of the above

4. When smoked every day, which has more cancer-causing chemicals:
 - a. A joint
 - b. A pack of cigarettes
 - c. Both are harmful

5. Smoking marijuana when driving is dangerous because it:
 - a. Slows responses to sights and sounds
 - b. Makes it harder to judge distances
 - c. Increases the chances of getting in a car crash



Answers: 1. e; 2. a,b,c,d or e; 3. e; 4. c; 5. a, b, and c

(Information courtesy of Amethyst)

ur life in danger? plaguing our generation... your life away?

because of problems due to smoking...that's one out of every six deaths!

LONG TERM EFFECTS OF SMOKING

- * Emphysema - the inability to breathe, requiring an oxygen tank.
- * Chronic Bronchitis - the build up of too much mucus in the lungs, resulting in constant coughing.
- * Lung Cancer - 90 % of cases are caused by smoking, and it can kill the individual.
- * Death

EFFECTS OF SMOKELESS (CHEWING TOBACCO)

- * Early signs of gum disease.
- * Lesions in the mouth.
- * Cancer in the mouth, throat, tongue, cheek and gums.
- * Disgusting yellow teeth, gross breath, smelly hair and clothing.

REASONS TO QUIT

- * Save money - at two dollars a pack, save \$ 730 a year, (that's a down payment on a car !)
- * Don't have to waste money on cosmetic surgery for premature wrinkles, cigarette burns, and yellow stained teeth.
- * Avoid chemotherapy for cancer.
- * An oxygen tank does not seem like a good accessory.

WAYS TO QUIT

- * Alter smoking and chewing patterns.
- * Delay smoking or chewing by drinking water or juice or chewing on gum, toothpicks, or a snack.
- * Think about how much better NOT smoking is.



The dangers of drugs

By J.T. Crook
Sports Co-Editor

Drug use is a problem with teenagers in the United States. On any given weekend there are parties that offer the use of illicit drugs such as marijuana and cocaine. Many teenagers think that it is cool to get high on weekends. They live life without a care. They do not think that there are consequences for their actions. Well, there are. These consequences can take a promising life away and return only addiction and worthlessness.

A common feature of many weekend parties is marijuana. Marijuana is the most widely

used illicit drug among teenagers. Its greatest danger is that it leads to the use of more dangerous drugs. A recent study has shown that teenagers who use it are 266 times more likely to start using cocaine. Its effects are well known. It leads to a lack of motivation and a lack of energy. That lack of motivation is what changes a good student into a failing student. It literally makes the user stupid. When a person is high on marijuana their speech will make no sense and they will seem to have the intelligence of a four year old.

Cocaine is generally regarded as the most frequently used illicit drug among the entire population. Recently a sur-

vey found that 11.3 percent of the civilian population reported using it during their lifetime. Cocaine can also lead to serious addiction. Snorting it can also wear a hole in your nose, leaving the user walking around with a lifetime case of the sniffles. It can cause a heart attack when too much is taken, and can totally consume a person's life. A cocaine junkie can live his life waiting on his addiction. Unless treated, a person addicted to marijuana will spend the rest of their life as a slave to a mere white powder.

Ever since they took DARE in elementary school, teenagers have been listening to how bad drugs are for them. They

have been hit over the head about the dangers of drug addiction. They have seen the "...your brain on drugs" commercial so many times that they have memorized the entire commercial by heart. Despite the dangers, many teenagers have tried illicit drugs. If educating today's youth is not the solution, the only way to keep teenagers off of drugs is to inform them of what the dangers are. Hopefully they will learn that they are putting their life in danger.

(Information provided by
Social Issues Research Services)

Interested in time travel? The Renaissance Festival offers a unique way to go back in time

By Cat Traphagan
Staff Reporter

Whether you are looking for good food or old fashioned fun, the Renaissance Festival is the place to go! It costs a mere ten dollars to walk through the gates of time into a magical world where kings and queens parade among the fairies.

Upon entering you will encounter many peasants going about their daily duties but they are not too busy to stop and share their colorful life stories. There are beautiful flower garlands to try on, and there are even costume rentals for those brave enough to travel into the time warp themselves.

Moving along, you can find the queen and king's court with an occasional princess gracing the crowd with her presence. They will teach you how to bow to royalty and they might even tell you what side to sit on at the joust. Along the way there are blushing flower girls selling beautiful roses with a bashful laugh. As you get deeper into the fantasy world you will find Leonardo's Flying Machines whirling around and around. You will discover gypsies who are eager to dance a jig, and it's possible that you will get recruited to prance along with them.

There are merchants, here and



there, selling enchanting wares. There are jokers, musicians and artists that please your every whim. But watch what you say because there is a medieval-style prison with all the torture

methods within. It costs one dollar to view the horrific devices used to inflict pain on those who chose to violate the king and queen's laws.

The Spanish duelists have a

sense of humor all their own as they fight a historical duel. Merlin, the royal magician, can be found playing his harp with his magic dragon, telling tales of chivalry.

Ever wonder what it is like to get stuck in a maze? Wonder no more because you can try to weave your way through a mind-boggling maze complete with slides at the end.

Time for lunch? No problem. There is a wide array of food. The king's personal favorite is the huge turkey legs, more tantalizing than Mc Donald's ever dreamed! If you are interested in animals, there are elephant and camel rides. Be careful, though because camels are known to spit. Test your aim at the Vegetable Justice booth as a loud mouth joker tests your temper. If your aim is accurate you might get the pleasure of landing a tomato right in his mouth. Don't forget the highlight of the day, The Royal Joust! It is good versus evil. Pick your side and cheer on your knight. Who knows? Maybe good won't win this time. As the day comes to a close, your feet may be aching, so hail a man-powered carriage to whisk you back to the gates. But don't forget to pay your respects to the king and queen!

From hardy turkey legs to elephant rides, the Renaissance Festival has something for everyone. Hurry and buy your tickets before the mystical world is closed until next year.

The Festival ends November 15.

Looking for something out of the ordinary?

Believe it or not, there are many cool places in Charlotte to beat your weekend boredom

Charlotte Climbing Center
619 S. Cedar St.
333-7625

For you outdoorsy people who can't make it to the mountains.

Pop's Main Street Ice Cream
Stonecrest Shopping Center
540-0100

Homeade ice cream and frozen novelties.

La-Dee-Da's
1942 East 7th St.
372-9599

Restaurant with antique gift shop and live music.

Seven Seeds CoffeeHouse
1213 W. Morehead Street
358-0106

Local bands perform here regularly.



Dilworth Diner
1608 East Blvd.
333-0137

A '50's style cafe with a great atmosphere and good food.

Silver Screen Cafe
4120 E. Independence Blvd.
535-8333

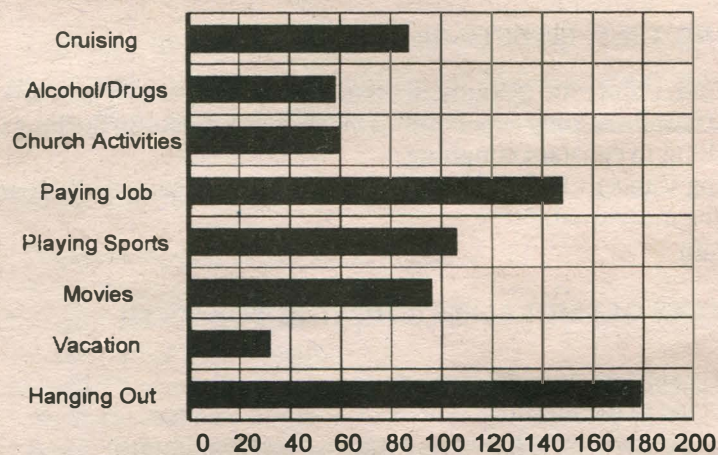
A unique experience...they serve in front of the big screen!

Manor Theatre
607 Providence Rd.
334-2727
Independent movies that allow a break from Hollywood.

The IceHouse
400 Towne Centre Blvd.
889-9000
New ice skating arena near Carolina Place Mall.

Omnimax Theater
Discovery Place
301 N. Tryon St.
372-6162
Education with a thrill!

How do South students spend their weekends?



The Everest experience

By Jennifer Samuels
Staff Reporter

Educational films are not always boring. Proof of this can be seen in the film Everest, currently playing at the Ominimax Theater at Discovery Place. It is shot with an IMAX camera, allowing all the swoops, turns, and wide pictures to be experienced in a grandiose splendor.

Everest documents the attempt of a group of climbers from around the world to scale the great mountain. This film is far from boring, and it is action-packed. Whether using ladders to cross crevices many miles deep, or scaling the sheer ice walls of Everest, there is danger at every turn.

However, this film is not merely an action flick or travel log. It was made during the

tragic storm on Everest in 1996, which resulted in many deaths. This storm is documented in the film, and listening to the firsthand accounts of people who experienced the storm and death, is heart-wrenching. However, the bravery shown by the expedition featured through their continued chase of the summit after the storm is inspiring. Do they make it to the top and get down safely? Go see the film to find out! It's running date has been extended to November 25. It seems that people just cannot get enough of Everest. A few months ago the movie broke the top twenty films in the nation, an unprecedented feat by an IMAX movie. The IMAX experience is incredible. Bring the mountain to you - go see Everest today!

Delightful Evening of Drama

Four one-act plays for the low price of \$3!

Lonely Planet by Steven Dietz
Dinner With the Taylors by Anna Williamson
The Cinderella Syndrome by Nicole Meade
A Director's Worst Nightmare by Jackie Dautel

Thursday, November 12 at 7:00pm @ South Meck Auditorium

Faces in the Crowd

Dena King: A dedicated Sabre who is known for her involvement in many extracurricular activities

By Nicole Ewing
Business Manager

If you have not heard about Dena King and her accomplishments by now, you must have been under a rock for the past four years. This senior woman has been involved in many activities and has been recognized for numerous accomplishments for her active interest throughout the community.

The list of clubs that she is actively involved in could go on forever. She is a member of Executive Council, the president of Gospel Choir, vice president of Sisters with Vision, and a member of BETA Club and National Honor Society.

Her extraordinary efforts in



Walter Boyle/Staff Photographer

Dena King has been recognized for her many contributions throughout the community.

school and the community have not gone unnoticed. Her awards include, "Presidential Award," "Miss Lady Like," and "Who's Who among American High School Students." Her greatest achievement is being nominated as South Meck's DAR Representative.

As you can see, this lady Sabre has her head on straight. After high school, she hopes to attend either UNC-Chapel Hill, NC State or Davidson where she plans to major in business management, and then attend law school. With her variety of AP and AG classes and her full, well-rounded schedule, there is little doubt that she will succeed in anything and everything she puts her mind to.

Chris Gordon: An outstanding student athlete who excels in cross country and track

By Chris O'Connor
Staff Reporter

Chances are you've probably seen Chris Gordon running around campus after school or working behind the scenes on a recent drama production. Well known for his success as a runner on the cross country and track teams, this junior is also a diligent student who strives for excellence in all of his pursuits.

Chris has run on the varsity cross country team at South for the past three years, and is currently serving as captain for the second consecutive year. He has also lettered every year in track, and he was a part of the 4x800 relay team that placed first in the conference meet in 1997 and set



Walter Boyle/Staff Photographer

Chris Gordon, captain of the cross country team, is known for his athletic stamina.

the school record for that event.

An active member of Somedra, Chris builds scenery and operates lights for drama productions. He has designed the lighting for Senior Follies the past three years, and he helped build the sets for Somedra's Gold in the Hills, The Odd Couple, and Black Comedy. He also plays bass clarinet in the South Meck band.

In his spare time, Chris enjoys playing football and spending time with friends. He works at LaStrada Restaurant and Atlantic Construction Company.

"Chris is an outstanding student and athlete who cares deeply for South," said cross country coach Brian Zelk, "and I have much respect for him."

What could be done at South to encourage school spirit?

"If the audience was more involved in pep rallies we would be more pumped and so would all of the athletes."

Demarius Alexander, 12

"South Meck should put on a talent show to showcase Sabre talent."

Amy Smith, 9

"Open a campus coffee house that is run by South Meck students. The money to build it could be raised by the student body."

Rebecca Moore, 12

"Offer more after school programs and activities that are entertaining and have interesting ideas, logos or mottos."

Akil Landers, 9

"We should have a weekend-long carnival at South that includes acts, shows, games, food, etc."

Loiane Camargo, 12

"Include more decorations with our school colors during Spirit Week."

Kelly Busher, 9

"Promote South Meck sports so that more students will want to attend the games."

Dylan Mauerhan, 10

"I think that there should be more pep rallies, dances, and other student activities."

Leslie Cunningham, 11

"Activities that include all different groups of students and not just certain cliques would help to get more people involved. If popular activities included more than sports, more people would be encouraged to participate."

Laura Paradise, 10

"We should have signs promoting upcoming games and more schoolwide events, instead of class and club oriented events only."

Ira Tolley, 10

"More people could come to South Meck games. We should also have people participate in more school activities."

Michael Benfield, 11

"Encourage the band to be more involved with the crowd at sporting events."

Bob Henderson, 12

"More after-school activities that include all of the students, not just athletes."

Chrissy Koelle, 11

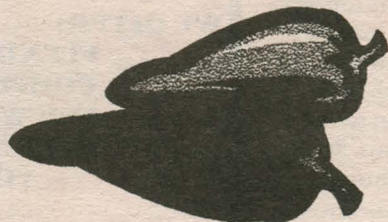
"If we celebrated the wins of our sports teams more, there would be more spirit."

Brandon Jackson, 12



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Different perspectives on the NBA lockout

Which voices are being ignored?

There are more sides to the lockout story than just the spoiled, overpaid player against the greedy, business-like owner. By my count, there are three sides that are being left out. I want to voice all of the sides of the lockout which could cancel the entire NBA season. This is what I believe to be the viewpoint of a journeyman, a rookie, and a fan.

The Journeyman

I don't know what I'm going to do. I don't exactly fit the mold of the flashy, spoiled, and overpaid superstar. I have earned the NBA minimum salary for five years in a row. I have played for six teams in the last four years and am currently unsigned by any team. I don't even know where I'll be when this thing is over. Sure, I do get paid pretty well during the season, but what do I do when my career is over. The average NBA career is four years. I am only twenty-six and I have no idea what I am going to do with the rest of my life.

J. T. Crook

Sports Commentary

The Rookie

This lockout is one of the most confusing things I have ever seen. I have spent my summer working out and getting ready for a tough season ahead, if there ever is one. My agent and I have not even begun to bargain with my team about the size of my contract and bonus. What if I do not live up to the size of my contract? After this long lockout is over, I do not think that the hometown fans are going to like me if I disappear from them. I really don't know what my future holds.

The Fan

I have been buying season tickets from the local team for twenty years. I have stuck with them even when they were in the division cellar. I pay for tickets that take a large chunk out of my year's salary. My wife complains about that but I think it is worth it. She just does not understand. I love the atmosphere, the smell of the coliseum, and the music that they play. Fans like me are a part of the game, so why haven't we been consulted? Why are they trying to take basketball away from us?

After reading my column, I hope you understand that there is more to the lockout than just the greedy superstars against the greedy owners. For the sake of all parties involved, I hope that the player's union and the owners will come to an agreement soon and the season can begin.

Cross Country wins Conference Championship

Team dedicates victory to Ben Robinette

By Chris O'Connor
Staff Reporter

In one of the closest conference meets ever, the Sabre cross country team brought home the Conference Championship for the first time in over twenty-five years. To claim the championship, the Sabres had to beat longtime powerhouse East Meck, a team that has won the conference for eleven of the last twelve years.

The race started with East taking an early lead as the Sabres decided to wait to make their move. The top East runners maintained their lead until the Sabres began to pick them off near the two mile mark. Alexi Neill was able to catch up to East's leaders, but finished just short of their one and two man. However, the Sabres were able to catch East's pack in the final mile as they put their second, third, and fourth man in front of East's number three. This gave the Sabres the advantage that they needed to win.

Alexi Neill led the Sabres placing third with a time of 16:50 which qualified him for the All-Conference team. When asked about the team's success, he said that, "We couldn't have done it without the outstanding efforts of the other six guys." Neill was

followed by John Lakas, who placed sixth with a time of 17:01, also qualifying for All-Conference. Brendan McHugh, who

team wanted to bring home the championship to honor the memory of Ben Robinette who died earlier in the season in a

win the conference." During the awards ceremony after the race, Chris Gordon announced to the crowd that the Sabres were



Photograph courtesy of John Lakas

Conference Champs: Back Row from left to right: M. Presslar, M. Monosoff, N. Morabito, D. Goodson, B. Freyer, M. Ballenger, W. St. George, B. McHugh, S. Harmaty, N. Smith, Coach Zelk, C. O'Connor. Front Row: J. Nark, J. Sauzier, M. Fay, T. Iyooob, A. Neill, J. Landivar, J. Lakas, C. Gordon, J. Hsu.

qualified for All-Conference by placing ninth with a time of 17:24, said, "We've all gone through a lot this year as a team, so we all knew what we had to do, and we all rose to the occasion". Chris O'Connor placed twelfth in the meet with a time of 17:26, which earned him the final spot on the All-Conference team. Chris Gordon, in an extraordinary display of toughness, battled an injury for the entire race, and still managed to finish with a time of 17:39.

This was an important victory for the Sabres not only because it was their first championship, but also because the

traffic accident. After the accident, the Sabres came together and decided that they would do whatever was necessary to win the title for Ben. They rallied together as a team as they stepped up their workouts and focused on their goal. Co-captain John Sauzier said, "Ben was an outstanding runner, and an extremely hard worker. It was his spirit inside each and every one of us that enabled us to commit ourselves to each other and to

dedicating the win to Ben. When asked about his view on the team's success this year, Gordon replied, "I am proud of the performance of the team this year. The fact that we had the strength to conquer the highest mountain from a start in the deepest hole is an awesome demonstration of the overall maturity, determination, and most importantly the willpower to move through the tough time to achieve success."

Injuries hamper Sabre Football

By Jason Nark
Staff Reporter

Even though the record might not show it, the 1998 Sabre football team has played well this season. Many injuries have hurt the Sabres' offense and defense, but the remaining players have really stepped it up. "We have had a disappointing year but not in the terms of the effort of our players. Our players have tried hard every game. We are not happy with our record but the kids have tried and really done the best they could and played some outstanding football," said Coach Shaughnessey. He was proud of the way his team played against West Charlotte and Independence.

The major factor contributing to the Sabres' 2-7 record has been injuries. Seventeen players missed a total of fifty-nine games altogether this season, including thirteen starters who have missed an average of five games each. Three starting of-

fensive linemen have been injured, which has left quarterback Jason Peterson open to blitzing defenses. Three linebackers have been sidelined for most of the season due to a variety of injuries, along with starting tailback Jamal Harper.

Looking past all of the injuries, the Sabre football team has pulled together to try to make this a season to remember. Many players have had outstanding performances such as fullback Cameron Stinson, who rushed for 200 yards on twenty-one carries against East Meck. Cameron also contributed on defense with thirteen tackles, a caused fumble, and a fumble recovery. He was honored as WBT's player of the week.

As for next year, things can only get better. Quarterback Jason Peterson will be returning along with tailback Jamal Harper, leading receiver Anre' Clauson, and nine starters including members of the secondary linebacking core, and offensive line.

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Soccer ends season in disappointment

Despite a strong start, the Sabres must wait another year for a postseason playoff spot

By Laura King
Staff Reporter

As Sabre soccer wraps up their 1998 season, they boast a successful record of sixteen wins, four losses and two ties, having outscored their opponents in conference matches by a margin of sixty to eighteen goals. The team spent most of their season ranked in the top ten of the North Carolina Soccer Coaches' Association state poll. They remained in the ninth spot for most of their season and were once ranked as high as seventh in the state. Seniors Ian McConnell and Josh Fisher have had memorable seasons; sophomore Drew Llewellyn led the team in scoring with twenty-two goals, and Greg Arent and Chris Wyer each have added thirteen goals.

The Sabres currently hold the sixth spot in the Observer's Sweet Sixteen with one match remaining on their schedule. They recently defeated powerhouse Myers Park, a team which has been considered by many to be the state's best, by a score of 3-0. Jeff Tate scored an unassisted goal in the first four minutes to put the Sabres ahead early, and tough defense prevented the Mustangs from ever equalizing. It was the Mustangs' first conference loss, and



A Butler defender challenges Forward Mike Ingram as he tries to add another goal to the Sabre's 5-1 victory last Thursday night.

the Sabres were also the first team to hold them scoreless. However, despite their outstanding accomplishments this season, an extremely tough conference and a recent 3-1 loss to rival East Meck may prevent the Sabres from making the state playoffs. The top three teams in our conference go to the playoffs. South competes with Providence, Myers Park, and East Meck, three teams which, like the Sabres, have been an-

chored in the top ten for much of the season.

Even if the Sabres fall short of the playoffs, Coach Lynch will not be disappointed with his team. "Even though the chances of making the playoffs are not good at this point, I am still very proud of the guys and their accomplishments this season," he said. "Of course, there is always next year. The Sabres have a strong core of varsity starters returning for the 1999

season. In addition, South's junior varsity team was outstanding this season. They defeated Myers Park in the teams' second matchup by a score of 1-0, edging out the Mustangs by one win to claim the conference championship with a record of thirteen wins, two losses and two ties. Coach Lynch takes pride in the accomplishments of this year's squad and hopes to compete for the state championship next season.

Lack of respect for the Panthers

Do you support the Carolina Panthers? From what I have seen this season, I would venture to say that most of the Panthers' hometown does not. The "fans" of our city have not been faithful to their football team which they wanted so badly a few years ago.

The Carolina fans are partly responsible for their pathetic record of 1 and 7. Does being a losing team mean the fans no longer need to support them? An example of the disrespect they have received, was in their recent loss to Green Bay. They were losing by a large margin early in the game, so the "fans" predicted a blowout and left the game early. The Panthers ended up losing that game, but not without a fight. They had a chance to win with just seconds left, but they were lacking a major factor, fan support.

Another problem with the fans of Charlotte, is that they only go to home games if the weather is nice. Real football is best in bad weather, but Carolina's fans would rather watch the game on TV.

Nathan Morabito

Sports Commentary

The biggest issue of respect is the Kerry Collins dilemma. The biggest cheer that Collins received this season was after his requested removal from the starting lineup, and later his departure to New Orleans.

Although the majority of fans dislike him and think he is a terrible player, he really has true talent. His talent was evident in the Panther's run at the championship in 1996 when he was one of the top starting quarterbacks in the NFL. His problems began in a regular season game against Kansas City last year. He played one of his worst games as a Panther and consequently, the fans called for his removal from the game. From then on it was the "fans" versus Kerry Collins. Charlotte's fans drained the passion for football out of him. Do fans in other cities consistently yell derogatory remarks to their starting quarterbacks? If the answer is yes, then the city has a bad team. Unfortunately, in Charlotte the majority of the fans do not support their team. If you were Collins, would you want to play for a team whose fans could not stand you?

Since the Panthers had a great team in 1996, when they made the Conference Championship, the fans of Charlotte expect a solid team every year. No team can have a winning record season after season. The fans must be patient and stand by their team when they need it most. Next time the Panthers play, try to support them even if they are losing, and please do not leave early.

Lady Sabres tennis team completes a successful season

By Nicole Ewing
Business Manager

After long and successful season, the Lady Sabres tennis team ended their year in a tough match against Providence while competing in the regional tournament. In regular season matches, the team placed third behind Myers Park and Providence which earned them a spot in the regional team tournament. They crushed East-Gaston 8-1, and then lost to the Panthers. "I am very pleased with our season," said Coach Art Abbott, "we reached our goal of coming in third, and all

we plan to do is improve."

Ellen Abbott, Kim Rogers, Nicole Ewing, Eleanor Martin, Annye Scrogam, and Becky Orr, went on to compete in the individual tournament. The doubles teams of Ewing-Martin and Scrogam-Orr, both lost in the conference round to the top seeds. The two singles players, Abbott and Rogers, had wins in the conference round, and went to regions. Senior Kim Rogers is happy to have made it so far after playing for four years. "Each year has helped me to improve my game and become a stronger person physically and mentally, both on and off the

court," she said.

Their final record for the 1998 season was 5 and 2. Only three seniors will leave, so the young team is looking to surprise the competition next season. One of these seniors is Annye Scrogam. "The past four years the team has really beaten the odds and I am happy to be a part of such a great group of girls."

Next year, their goal is to improve in the rankings and make it as far as they can in the tournaments. Sophomore Ellen Abbott said "Being close and working as a team show we have the potential to rise above the other teams."

Associated Press College Football Top 25

1.	Ohio State	8-0
2.	Tennessee	7-0
3.	UCLA	7-0
4.	Kansas St.	8-0
5.	Florida	7-1
6.	Florida St.	8-1
7.	Texas A&M	8-1
8.	Wisconsin	8-0
9.	Penn State	6-1
10.	Arizona	8-1
11.	Arkansas	7-0
12.	Virginia	7-1
13.	Notre Dame	6-1
14.	Nebraska	7-2
15.	Syracuse	5-2
tie.	Tulane	7-0
tie.	Vir. Tech	7-1
18.	Missouri	6-2
19.	Georgia	6-2
20.	Texas	6-2
21.	Oregon	6-2
22.	Michigan	6-2
23.	Ga. Tech	6-2
24.	Miami	5-2
25.	Air Force	7-1

This poll comes from the Associated Press in the 11/2/98 Charlotte Observer

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Senior Mysteries



By Nicole Ewing
Business Manager

If you are looking for a tutor, this month's senior mystery is the guy to ask. He is at the very top of his class, President of Senior Class Council, and a member of many academic clubs such as BETA Club, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and DECA. Don't think that he only has brains; he also runs cross-country and plays Park Sharon Basketball. Need another clue? If you ever eat at Copeland's Restaurant, your salad, appetizer, and desert might be made by this chef. Can you guess who it is? If not, check Page 9 for the answer.



By Chris O'Connor
Staff Reporter

This senior mystery is a very important part of the student government. He is not only involved in politics, but he is also very athletic. He plays linebacker for the varsity football team, and has even been nominated for the athlete of the week award. Away from school, he spends his time working at Celebration Station. After high school, he plans to attend either NC Central or NC State and would like to become a lawyer or a sports agent. If you are still puzzled by this senior mystery, turn to page 9 to find out who he is.

The '90s: Everything old is new again

By Natalie Smith
Staff Reporter

Bell-bottom pants, platform shoes, and '70s funk music. Sound like scene from an old *Shaft* movie? Well, it isn't. Today, things such as these can be found everywhere amongst the teenage population. The reason? The '90s are the decade of imitation. Never before has there been such a widespread resurfacing of trends from past decades as there are now. Fashion and music from as far back as the twenties are immensely popular and styles thought to have died out long ago are coming back with a vengeance.

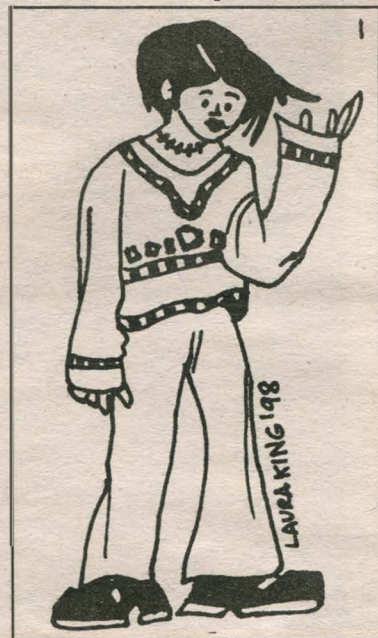
Clothing and fashion from past decades have become a huge part of styles in the '90s. The '60s, for example, brought us capri pants, tailored shirts and beatnik tops. The gangster look of the 1930s pinstripe suit is also making a comeback in men's as well as women's fashion. Platform shoes from the '70s have made such a colossal return that, in addition to heeled shoes, many sneakers and tennis shoes are being made with the platform-style sole. The return of Mary Jane shoes brings back memories of the 1920's flapper. What, though, prevents the return of these retro fads from seeming just plain old-fashioned? The fashions never return exactly as they originally were. Instead, they come back

with a '90s twist and are slightly altered to give them a more modern look. Bell-bottoms, for instance, are no longer the psychedelic-colored spandex pants we remember from the '70s. Rather, the concept of the "bell

also seen in the media. A popular commercial for The Gap shows young adults in khaki pants dancing to the lively music of the Brian Setzer Orchestra and finishes with the slogan "khakis swing."

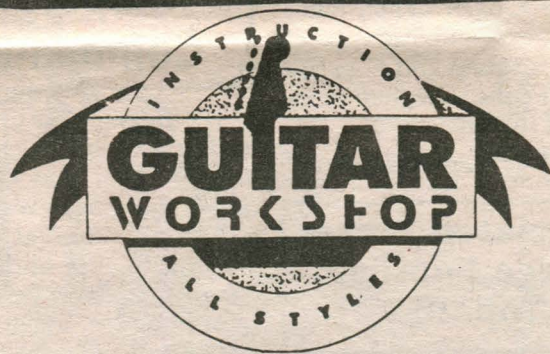
Another example is music sampling in which artists take cuts from old songs and use them in their own. This is most common in R&B and rap music. For example, Sean "Puffy" Combs is one of the most popular rappers in our decade. Ironically, though, he is noted for being a sampler of music from the '70s and '80s. Even alternative rock music of today could be thought of as a derivative of, or at least comparable to the protest-filled rock music of the 1960's.

So, what's behind this wild fascination with the past? There is no single reason. However, in the opinion of many there is nothing definitive about our decade, and there is uncertainty about what life will be like as we near the 21st century. As a result, attentions are focused on the past and that which is already established. Variety also plays a role. With about seven decades since 1920 to choose from, teens can sport anything from flare legs and platforms to the radical look of the hippie era; and they can listen to anything from Glenn Miller to the Rolling Stones. Yet, the most important reason is: it's just fun.



bottom" has been applied to ordinary blue jeans, and thus are born the flare leg jeans.

Music of prior decades has also come back with a bang. The most obvious example is the new the Swing craze that has swept over the nation in recent months. Reminiscent of the late 1930s and the early 1940s, Swing music and dancing are primary forms of entertainment for many teens. The influence of the comeback of the Swing era is



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